

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 SAB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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R 261515Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4921

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS TUNIS 1731

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE MARCH 25

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REF: TUNIS 1692, 1646

1. SUMMARY. INAUGURAL SESSION ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE HELD EVENING MARCH 25. AFTER OPENING SPEECHES, PARTICIPANTS WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR DURATION OF CONFERENCE. MOST NEWSWORTHY EVENT OF DAY WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND JORDAN. END SUMMARY.

2. INAUGURAL SESSION OF 61ST ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE, FIRST TIME EVER HELD IN TUNISIA, BEGAN EVENING MARCH 25. SESSION, ATTENDED BY DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS, WAS OPENED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SALAH MOUTTI (SOUTH YEMEN), OUTGOING PRESIDENT. SPEECHES WERE GIVEN BY ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN RIADH, MOUTTI (WHO THEN TURNED OVER PRESIDENCY TO KUWAITI FOMIN AL SABAH WHO IN TURN STEPPED DOWN IN FAVOR OF TUNISIAN FOMIN HABIB CHATTI), TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA IN NAME OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, CHATTI AND SOMALI FOMIN OMAR ARTEH. SPEECHES WERE CONFINED TO THANKING GOT FOR HOSTING CONFERENCE (OR IN CASES OF NOUIRA AND CHATTI, WELCOMING DELEGATES) AND TO COMMENTS ON IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED (REFTELS), WITH SAUDI FOMIN SAQQAF REPORTEDLY TAKING LEAD, CONFERENCE THEN DECIDED REMAINING SESSIONS WOULD BE CLOSED IN CONFORMANCE WITH LEAGUE RULES. SCHEDULED DISCUSSION ON AGENDA WAS POSTPONED TO MARCH 26.

3. MOST NEWSWORTHY EVENT OF DAY WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND JORDAN, WHICH HAD BEEN BROKEN JULY 17, 1973 (AMMAN 3785 NOTAL). AT CLOSE OF MARCH 25 SESSION, ASST SEC GEN OF ARAB LEAGUE NAOUFEL READ DECLARATION STATING THAT SEC GEN RIADH HAD TAKEN OCCASION OF THIS MEETING TO CONTACT TWO GOVERNMENTS, WHO HAD AGREED TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS ON "BASIS OF FRATERNITY, COOPERATION AND MUTUAL RESPECT". DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ON OCTOBER 14 AFTER BEGINNING OF OCTOBER UNCLASSIFIED

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WAR TUNISIA ANNOUNCED ITS WILLINGNESS TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH JORDAN (PARA 5, TUNIS 5941).

4. PERMANENT DELEGATES TO ARAB LEAGUE MET AFTERNOON MARCH 25 AND DECIDED THAT URGENT QUESTIONS, NOTABLY DECISIONS TAKEN AT ALGIERS SUMMIT, WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND PRESUMABLY DISCUSSED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. LESS IMPORTANT QUES-

TIONS WOULD BE TAKEN UP BY SUBCOMMITTEES, WHICH WOULD MAKE REPORT TO CONFERENCE. THESE ARE TO BE EXAMINED LATER DURING MEETING IN CAIRO NEXT MONTH, PRESUMABLY AT LEVEL OF PERMANENT DELEGATES TO LEAGUE.

5. LIST OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, AS REPORTED BY TUNISIAN PRESS, ATTENDING CONFERENCE ARE AS FOLLOWS: MAHMOUD RIADH, SEC GEN ARAB LEAGUE; FONMINS AL SOUEIDI (ARAB EMIRATES), MOUTTI (SOUTH YEMEN) SAQQAF (SAUDI ARABI), KHADDAM (SYRIA), BENHIMA (MOROCCO), ARTEH (SOMALIA), BOUTEFLIKA (ALGERIA), NAFAA (LEBANON), AL SABAH (KUWAIT), OULD MOKNASS (MAURITANIA), AL KHALIFA (BAHREIN); JORDANIAN COUNSELOR TO THE KING, RIFAI; MIN YOUTH AND SPORTS AND FONMIN A.I. ZENTANI (LIBYA), VICE FONMIN AL ALAOUI (OMAN); MOFA SEC GEN OBEID (SUDAN); FIRST COUNSELOR TO COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC NU'MAN (NORTH YEMEN); AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO AL ALI (QATAR); AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO AND ARAB LEAGUE PERM REP NEJMI (IRAQ); ARAB LEAGUE PER REP ABDULMAJID (EGYPT); MEMBER OF PALE TINE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AL KADOUMI. ALSO ATTENDING AS AN OBSERVER WAS COUNSELOR OF UNION OF ARAB REPUBLICS HAMAD. NOTABLE AMONG FOREIGN MINISTERS ABSENTEES WERE IRAQI AND EGYPTIAN. IRAQI CLAIMED ILLNESS AND EGYPTIAN, FAHMI, EXPECTED ARRIVE LATER. SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, SPEECHES, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS01731
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740065-0410
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740313/aaaaamcr.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TUNIS 1692, 1646
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE MARCH 25 UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, TS, XF, XI, JO, AL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005